

R A T H D R U M U N I O N.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 3 November 1882;—for,

COPY "of CORRESPONDENCE and the REPORT of the Poor Law Inspector
who held the Inquiry into the Election of a POOR LAW GUARDIAN for
KILLISKEY Electoral Division of RATHDRUM UNION, County WICKLOW."

Local Government Board, Dublin, }
1 December 1882.

B. BANKS,
Secretary.

(*Mr. William Carleton.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
23 February 1883.

COPY of CORRESPONDENCE and of the REPORT of the Poor Law Inspector who held the Inquiry into the Election of a POOR LAW GUARDIAN for KILLESKEY Electoral Division of RATHDRUM UNION, County WICKLOW.

— No. 1. —

MEMORIAL of Mr. Gaskin to the Local Government Board.

The Memorial of John Gaskin, of Newtown Boswell, Ashford, in the County of Wicklow, Farmer.

Sheweth,

THAT your memorialist was one of the candidates for the office of Poor Law Guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union at the recent election, the other candidate being Mr. George Crofton, of Inchnappa, county Wicklow.

That memorialist attended the counting of the votes by the returning officer at the workhouse, Rathdrum, on Thursday, the 23rd instant, and although your memorialist made several objections to the votes, the returning officer recorded 115 votes for Mr. George Crofton, and 78 for your memorialist.

That the 78 votes given for your memorialist were the votes of rated occupiers, and only 32 rated occupiers' votes were included in the 115 votes recorded for Mr. Crofton, of which 12 were irregular, as your memorialist believes, leaving a majority of 58 votes of rated occupiers in favour of your memorialist.

That the residue of the votes recorded by the returning officer for said George Crofton included 12 votes of a Mr. Evans Boyd, 12 votes of a Dr. Truell, 12 votes of a R. H. Truell, 12 votes of Colonel Atkinson, 12 votes of a Rev. Dr. Ball, and 12 votes of a Mr. Gun-Cunningham, to all of which various fatal objections apply sufficient to disqualify the votes, but same were recorded by the returning officer; and further, your memorialist has reason to believe that the nomination paper of said Mr. George Crofton was not regularly signed by the person thereby purporting to nominate said candidate; and your memorialist objects to said George Crofton being declared the elected guardian of said division, and your memorialist claims to be declared entitled to the office, and not the said George Crofton.

Your memorialist, therefore, prays that the Local Government Board may be pleased to direct the matter be examined into, and your memorialist declared duly elected, or to order that a new election may be held for said electoral division, and your memorialist will ever pray.

29 March 1882.

(signed) John Gaskin.

The Local Government Board.

— No. 2. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. Gaskin.

(Rathdrum Union.)

Local Government Board, Dublin,

31 March 1882.

Sir,
THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 29th instant, relating to the election for the office of guardian

PAPERS RELATING TO

guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division in the above union, and the Board desire to state that they will communicate with the returning officer of the union on the subject.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *W. D. Wodsworth*,
Assistant Secretary.

John Gaskin, Esq.,
Newtown Boswell, Ashford.

— No. 3. —

LETTER from Local Government Board to the Clerk and Returning Officer.

(Rathdrum Union.)

Local Government Board, Dublin,
31 March 1882.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland transmit to you the enclosed communication,* dated 29th instant, which they have received from Mr. John Gaskin, of Ashford, relating to the election for the office of guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division in the above union; and the Board request that you will furnish them with your observations as to the facts therein represented, without delay, and that you will return Mr. Gaskin's letter with your reply.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *W. D. Wodsworth*,
Assistant Secretary.

The Clerk and Returning Officer
of Rathdrum Union.

— No. 4. —

LETTER from the Returning Officer to the Local Government Board.

Rathdrum Poor Law Union, Board Room,
Rathdrum, 4 April 1882.

Sir,

IN reply to your letter of the 31st ultimo, I beg to say that the nomination of Mr. George Crofton as a candidate for the office of Poor Law Guardian for the Electoral Division of Killiskey, at the recent election, appears to me to be quite regular.

Mr. Crofton is properly qualified in regard to rating and payment of rates, is under no legal disability, and has been duly nominated by a qualified ratepayer, having all rates paid. The nomination paper was received by me on the 1st of March, and the signature to the paper I have every reason to believe is genuine, signed by Lieutenant Colonel Atkinson, of Dunran, in his own handwriting.

As regards the voting, the number of votes given by rated occupiers were as follows:—

For Mr. Crofton	—	—	—	32 votes.
For Mr. Gaskin	—	—	—	75 "

and no irregular votes were recorded for Mr. Crofton under this head.

As regards the other votes, Dr. Truell's were given by himself, and were claimed for by him in the prescribed manner.

The votes of Mr. Evan Boyd, Mr. R. H. Truell, Colonel Atkinson, Rev. Dr. Ball, and Mr. Gun-Cunningham were given by Dr. Truell for these gentlemen as their proxy upon claims and proxy appointments made in the prescribed forms and lodged with me in due time.

I am not aware of any informality or defect of any description in regard to either these claims or the votes recorded on account of them.

Any

Any objection made by Mr. Gaskin at the time of casting up the votes was duly considered by me, but he did not put forward any reason sufficient in my opinion to invalidate any of the votes which I recorded.

B. Banks, Esq., Secretary,
Local Government Board.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Manning*,
Returning Officer.

— No. 5. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. John Gaskin.

Local Government Board, Dublin,

6 April 1882.

Sir,
ADVERTING to your memorial of the 29th ultimo, requesting that an inquiry may be made in regard to the election for the office of guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union, the Local Government Board for Ireland forward to you herewith a copy of a letter* which they have received from the returning officer on the subject, which appears to the Board, in the absence of any evidence in support of the statements in your memorial, to be quite satisfactory.

You do not state what grounds you have for believing that the nomination paper of Mr. Crofton was not regularly signed, or what are the objections to the property votes recorded in his favour.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *W. D. Wodsworth*,
Assistant Secretary.

Mr. John Gaskin, Newtown Boswell,
Ashford, County Wicklow.

*See No. 4.

— No. 6. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Clerk and Returning Officer.

Local Government Board, Dublin,

6 April 1882.

Sir,
The Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, in reference to a memorial received from Mr. John Gaskin requesting that an investigation should be held in regard to the election for the office of guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union; and the Board desire to state that they have forwarded a copy of your letter to Mr. Gaskin, stating that in the absence of any evidence in support of the statements in his memorial it appears to be quite satisfactory.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *W. D. Wodsworth*,
Assistant Secretary.

The Clerk and Returning Officer,
Rathdrum Union.

— No. 7. —

LETTER from Mr. John Gaskin to the Local Government Board.

Newtown Boswell, Ashford,

10 April 1882.

Gentlemen,
I HAVE to acknowledge receipt of yours of 6th instant, enclosing copy of Mr. Manning's (returning officer of Rathdrum Union) report in reply to my memorial to your Board for an inquiry or scrutiny into the votes alleged to be given in the recent election for Poor Law Guardian for Killiskey Electoral Division,

Division, and stating in the absence of any evidence in support of my memorial, as it appeared to you quite satisfactory.

I see by the copy report of Mr. Manning that he states the election was quite regular, that Mr. Crofton was properly qualified and elected, and that the proxy votes were all right, and that he was not aware of any informality or defect therein, and that my objections were duly considered.

Mr. Manning overruled all my objections, and did not disallow a single vote, although in the adjoining Electoral Division of Wicklow, where legal objections were made to the same class of proxy votes by a professional man, it appears 115 votes were struck off the same party by the returning officer, which resulted in the return of the Roman Catholic guardian by a majority of 98 votes.

I cannot without a scrutiny specify the particular objections to each vote, but I have reason to believe that Evans Boyd, R. H. Truell, and other proxy votes are irregular, and if your Board refuse me an investigation, must only seek redress in another quarter.

The Secretary,
Local Government Board.

I am, &c.
(signed) *John Gaskin.*

— No. 8. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. John Gaskin.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
3 May 1882.

Sir,
THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo, in reference to your objection to the return of Mr. George Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union; and the Board desire to state that in the absence of any grounds shown for objecting to the votes which have been allowed by the returning officer, after due examination, they are not prepared to question the right of Mr. Crofton to act as the guardian elected for Killiskey Electoral Division.

Mr. John Gaskin, Newtown Boswell,
Ashford, County Wicklow.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *B. Banks,*
Secretary.

— No. 9. —

LETTER from Mr. John Gaskin to the Local Government Board.

Newtown Boswell, Ashford,
5 May 1882.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the 3rd May instant, from the Local Government Board, in reply to my letter of the 10th April last, objecting to the election of Mr. George Crofton as poor law guardian for the Killiskey Division of Rathdrum Union, and stating that, in the absence of any grounds shown for objecting to the votes which had been allowed by the returning officer, the Board is not prepared to question the matter. I beg to state that I consider I heretofore set forth ample grounds to entitle me to a scrutiny upon which the proof would appear, and which I am required to furnish, and which the Board deny me the means of acquiring upon the mere statement of the officer whose decision is impugned.

B. Banks, Esq.,
Secretary, Local Government Board.

I am, &c.
(signed) *John Gaskin.*

— No. 10. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. John Gaskin.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
10 May 1882.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 5th instant, in reference to your objection to the return of Mr. George Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union, in which you state that you consider you have set forth ample grounds to entitle you to a scrutiny; and in reference thereto the Board desire to state that they have referred to your previous communications on this subject, and they find that you have expressed your belief that 12 of the occupiers' votes recorded for Mr. Crofton were irregular; that in regard to the property votes recorded for him, various fatal objections apply sufficient to disqualify the votes; that the nomination paper of Mr. Crofton was not regularly signed; and that the returning officer overruled all your objections.

You do not, however, state the nature of the alleged irregularities and objections, nor what grounds you have for believing that they exist; and, having regard to the 88th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, which requires the returning officer, according to the best of his judgment and ability, to make a true return of the persons who shall be elected, and declares that every person returned by him shall be deemed to be legally elected, the Board are not prepared to question his return without some grounds are shown for believing that his decisions may have been erroneous.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *W. D. Wadsworth,*
John Gaskin, Esq. Assistant Secretary.

— No. 11. —

LETTER from Local Government Board to Clerk and Returning Officer.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
10 May 1882.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to state that they have observed questions put in the House of Commons relating to the election of a guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union, of which the following formed part:—

- " Whether Mr. Gaskin had a large majority of the votes of rated occupiers, but was defeated by proxy votes;
- " Whether the validity of many of such votes was questioned by Mr. Gaskin, but no professional agent being present on behalf of the rated occupiers to press the objections, all the proxy votes were admitted;
- " Whether, at the election for the adjoining Electoral Division of Wicklow, where a professional agent was employed, a large number of proxy votes were presented, and were objected to;
- " Whether the returning officer asserted they were all right, and wanted to record them; but, the objector insisting on examining them, many were rejected, being irregular, and the other candidate was returned."

The Board would be glad to obtain your observations in regard to the proceedings at the election of a guardian for Wicklow Electoral Division referred to in the questions.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *W. D. Wadsworth,*
The Clerk and Returning Officer, Assistant Secretary.
Rathdrum Union.

— No. 12. —

LETTER from the Returning Officer to Local Government Board.

Rathdrum Poor Law Union,
Board Room, Workhouse, Rathdrum,

12 May 1882.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 10th instant, requesting to be furnished with my observations in reference to certain questions put in the House of Commons regarding the recent election of poor law guardians for the Killiskey and the Wicklow Electoral Divisions in this Union, I beg to state in regard to that portion of the questions relating to the Wicklow election, that it is quite incorrect to state that a large number of proxy votes were objected to; it is equally incorrect to say that I wanted to record votes which were afterwards found to be irregular, and rejected on the objector insisting on examining them, and that in consequence the other candidate was returned.

The facts are these: There was not at any time during the counting up of the votes the slightest controversy or dispute between myself and the gentlemen professionally engaged by the contending parties, nor in fact between myself and any person whatever.

I allowed the candidates and their agents to examine every single voting paper after passing through my hands, and there was no paper or document connected with the election but was produced by me at once upon the slightest wish being expressed by either side to see it, and this only happened on two or three occasions, but no dispute arose at all about any one vote, nor any dissatisfaction expressed by any one as to my decisions; on the contrary, the agents on both sides said there was not the least occasion for their interference in the election at all, everything being carried out so fairly.

And at the conclusion of the election, the Rev. F. MacEnerney, c.c., Wicklow, who was present throughout, in very flattering terms proposed a vote of thanks to me for the painstaking and impartial manner in which I had conducted the election.

In regard to the statement that the interference of the agent for the popular candidates had the effect of turning the election, I need only add to the denial that any such interference took place this fact, that at no time during the counting of the votes was there any doubt as to the result, the popular candidates being largely in the majority all through.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Manning,*

B. Banks, Esq., Secretary.

Returning Officer.

— No. 13. —

LETTER from Mr. John Gaskin to the Local Government Board.

Newtown Boswell, Ashford.

13 May 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge receipt of letter of 10th May instant from Local Government Board for Ireland, relative to my objections to the return of Mr. George Crofton as poor law guardian for the Killiskey Division of the Rathdrum Union, and stating that they had referred to my former communications, and that I had not stated the nature of the alleged irregularities and objections, nor what grounds I had for believing they existed, and quoting the 88th section of the Irish Poor Law Relief Act, by which the person whom the returning officer declares to be elected shall be deemed to be legally elected.

I beg to state that I objected to the occupier vote of a Mr. Richards, out of Ballyhenry, no such person being on the rate book on the 7th March last, and I had inquired of the rate collector of the district (P. Farrell) if he knew who Mr. Richards was, and he stated he did not know of any such person. I also made the same inquiry of Constable Bresnan, R.I.C., stationed at Ashford, and received

same

same reply. I also objected to the vote of a Captain Welch, as rated occupier, out of Ballyhenry, who had never paid rates therein, same being paid by Dr. Truell. I objected to Dr. Truell having been allowed 12 votes as proxy for Charles Evans Boyd, resident in Wexford, but who has no property whatever in the district, and also to Dr. Truell having 12 votes for himself and 12 votes for R. H. Truell out of the same property, but the returning officer notwithstanding allowed all the votes.

I have reason to believe several other of the proxy votes were irregularly signed as they were so for the adjoining Electoral Division of Wicklow, and were got up by the same parties.

I believe, having regard to the 23rd section of the 7th & 8th Vict. c 92 (The Irish Poor Law Amendment Act), that the Board have power, if they think fit, to inquire into the circumstances of the case, and to make such order as they deem requisite, and therefore I asked for a scrutiny.

I am, &c.
(signed) *John Gaskin.*

The Secretary, Local Government Board.

— No. 14. —

LETTER from Local Government Board to Clerk and Returning Officer.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
16 May 1882.

Sir,
The Local Government Board for Ireland forward to you herewith a copy of a further letter*, which they have received from Mr. John Gaskin, in reference to his objection to the return of Mr. George Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union; and the Board request that they may be furnished with your observations as to the cases now specifically mentioned by Mr. Gaskin, and also as to his general statement that proxy votes were irregularly signed both in Killiskey and Wicklow Electoral Divisions.

* See No. 12.

The Clerk and Returning Officer,
Rathdrum Union.

By Order &c.
(signed) *B. Banks,*
Secretary.

— No. 15. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. Gaskin.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
16 May 1882.

Sir,
The Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 13th instant, in reference to your objection to the return of Mr. George Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union; and the Board desire to state that your letter shall receive attention.

John Gaskin, Esq.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *B. Banks, Secretary.*

— No. 16. —

LETTER from the Clerk and Returning Officer to the Local Government Board.
(Rathdrum Union.)

Board Room, Workhouse,

18 May 1882.

Sir,
I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 16th instant, enclosing a copy of a further letter received by the Local Government Board from Mr. John Gaskin, in reference to his objection to the return of Mr. George Crofton

Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskey Electoral Division of this Union, in which you request to be furnished with my observations as to the cases now specifically mentioned by Mr. Gaskin, and also as to his general statement that proxy votes were irregularly signed both in Killiskey and Wicklow Electoral Divisions.

And, in reply, I beg to state that in the case of Mr. Richards, a claim to be rated was made in his behalf on the 10th of March last, and that the guardians ordered his name to be placed on the rate book for the Killiskey Electoral Division in respect of property in the townland of Ballyhenry, valued at 81*l.*; and that Mr. Richards was rated accordingly.

In the case of Captain Welch, a similar claim was made in respect of property on the same townland, valued at 52*l.*, and a similar order was made by the guardians with a like result.

I may mention that Doctor Truell, who is an *ex-officio* guardian of this union, was present at the meeting of the Board, and vouched for the correctness of the claims, being himself the landlord of the property in respect of which the claims were made, and stated that these two gentlemen had then been for some time in the occupation of the property.

When I came to make out the lists of persons entitled to vote at the election of a guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division, I found the names in question on the rate book, and knowing that the rates on the respective holdings were paid, and also having every reason to believe the accuracy of Dr. Truell's statement, of which I was, and still am, perfectly satisfied, I of course included these names on the lists and issued voting papers, which were returned to me in the usual way, filled up and signed in a perfectly regular manner.

When counting up the votes given for each candidate Mr. Gaskin did object to these votes being recorded, but was unable to advance any reason why I should reject them, except that he was not aware that the two gentlemen named had any connection with the property out of which they were voting, or were in possession of it at all. Of course I could not regard this as a valid objection, having regard to what Dr. Truell had previously told me, and which he repeated at the time the objection was made.

In regard to the proxy votes of Mr. Evans Boyd, and Mr. R. H. Truell, which were given by Dr. Truell, who was appointed in the prescribed manner, and in proper time, the claims having been registered by me in due form on the 14th of February, I have to state in the first instance that the number of votes recorded by me in each case was only four, and not 12 as stated by Mr. Gaskin; and, in the second place, I was assured by Dr. Truell that these gentlemen were in the enjoyment of the head-rents in respect of which each had claimed, and I was perfectly satisfied as to the correctness of this assurance.

As regards Dr. Truell himself, he had on the 6th of December 1881, lodged with me a claim to vote as landlord of property of which he is owner in "fee simple," valued at 363*l.*, and out of which he receives profit rents amounting to 458*l.*. This claim was in due course registered by me, and a voting paper accordingly issued, which was duly and properly filled up and returned to me, and the votes recorded in the usual way.

As to the irregularity alleged to have taken place in the signing of these or any other proxy papers or votes, nothing of the kind, so far as I am aware, took place, and indeed I am at a loss to know in what the irregularity Mr. Gaskin alleges consists, or who the parties are who committed such irregularities.

I have, &c.

(signed) *B. Manning,*

B. Banks, Esq., Secretary.

Returning Officer.

— No. 17. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Clerk and Returning Officer.

Local Government Board, Dublin,

Sir,

19 May 1882.

THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, in reference to the objections raised by Mr. John Gaskin to the return of Mr. George Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskey Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union; and the Board have to state that they are desirous of receiving your further observations on the following points:—

1. Under what legal authority were the names of Mr. Richards and Captain Welch placed on the rate book on 10th March, no rate appearing to have been made since 29th July last, and whether the rate made on that day had been paid by them?

2. Is it the fact, as stated by Mr. Gaskin, that the votes claimed by Mr. R. H. Truell were claimed in respect of the same property as that out of which Dr. Truell votes, and if so, are you satisfied that each has sufficient interest in the property to sustain his claim?

3. Is it the fact that 12 votes were allowed to Dr. Truell as landlord in respect of his fee-simple property?

By Order, &c.
(signed) *B. Books*,
Secretary.

The Clerk and Returning Officer,
Rathdrum Union.

— No. 18. —

LETTER from the Clerk and Returning Officer to the Local Government Board.

(Rathdrum Union.)

Sir,

Board Room, Workhouse, 22 May 1882.

In replying to your letter, dated the 19th instant, on the subject of the objections raised by Mr. John Gaskin to the return of Mr. George Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskey Electoral Division of this union in March last, I beg to furnish you, for the information of the Local Government Board, with my observations on the three points alluded to in your letter.

1st. The legal authority under which the guardians ordered the names of Mr. Richards and Captain Welch to be placed on the rate book on the 10th of March, is the Act of Parliament 13 & 14 Vict. c. 60, s. 110, under which the guardians have been accustomed at all times to make orders of this nature when satisfied of the *bona fides* of the claims put forward as will appear by entries on their Minutes from time to time.

As regards the payment of the rates on these holdings, I have to state that the rates were paid by, I believe, Dr. Truell, with whom I understand it is customary in many instances to pay the poor rates for his tenants, but it did not occur to me that the fact of another person paying poor rates for an occupier who was primarily liable to pay them himself, being valued at over 4*l.*, would disqualify such occupier from voting at an election, either poor law or parliamentary.

2nd. It is the fact, as stated by Mr. Gaskin, that the votes claimed by Mr. R. H. Truell were claimed in respect of the same property as that out of which

which Dr. Truell votes, but I am quite satisfied that each has sufficient interest in the property to sustain his claim.

3rd. It is the fact that Dr Truell was allowed 12 votes as landlord in respect of his fee-simple property, such property being of the amount and value of over 200*l.* a year, on the grounds that he is not entitled to deduct poor rates from any superior landlord, and is therefore entitled to double votes.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Manning,*
B. Banks, Esq., Secretary. Clerk and Returning Officer.

— No. 19. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. Gaskin.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
24 May 1882.

Sir,
ADVERTISING to your letter of the 13th instant relating to your objections to the return of Mr. George Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskay Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union, the Local Government Board for Ireland desire to inform you that from reports which they have received from the returning officer it appears that Mr. Richards and Captain Welch were in the actual occupation of the property in respect of which they voted, and that although their names were not inserted in the list rate at the time that rate was made, they were duly and legally inserted in the rate book on the 10th of March last on a claim duly made in accordance with the provisions of the 110th section of the Parliamentary Voters' Act.

In regard to the votes given by Dr. Truell as proxy for Mr. Boyd and Mr. R. H. Truell, the returning officer states that the number of votes allowed in each case was 4, and not 12, as stated by you; and further that he was assured by Dr. Truell, and is himself satisfied of the fact, that both these gentlemen were in the enjoyment of the head rents in respect of which they claimed.

In regard to Dr. Truell's own votes as landlord, the Board do not think that the returning officer ought to have allowed more than six votes, and they are in communication with the returning officer on this subject, but the additional six votes which he appears to have allowed did not affect the final result of the election.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *W. D. Wedsworth,*
John Gaskin, Esq. Assistant Secretary.

— No. 20. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Clerk and Returning Officer.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
24 May 1882.

Sir,
The Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, relating to the objections raised by Mr. John Gaskin to the return of Mr. George Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskay Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union in the month of March last; and the Board forward for your information a copy of a letter* which they have this day addressed to Mr. Gaskin on the subject.

In

In reference to the votes allowed to Dr. Truell as landlord in receipt of rents from which poor rate is deducted, you appear to have been in error in allowing 12 votes, and you will see, on reference to the 81st section of the Irish Poor Relief Relief Act, that six votes is the maximum number that can be allowed, and that there is no provision for allowing double votes, except in the case of an occupier paying rate, and not entitled to deduct any part thereof from any rent paid by him.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *W. D. Wodsworth,*
The Clerk and Returning Officer, Assistant Secretary.
Rathdrum Union.

— No. 21. —

LETTER from Mr. Gaskin to the Local Government Board.

Newtown Bo-swell, Ashford,

26 May 1882.

Sir,
I beg to acknowledge receipt of the letter of the 24th May instant of the Local Government Board, in reply to mine of the 13th instant, stating, at their request, some of my objections to the votes, by which Mr. George Crofton was declared by the returning officer as elected poor law guardian for the Killiskey Division of the Rathdrum Union, and to submit that the Board ought not to refuse me a scrutiny of the voting papers upon the verbal statement of Dr. Truell to the returning officer, that the proxy votes were correct.

Referring to a list taken by me at the time of the counting of the votes, I find therefrom that in addition to 32 occupier votes allowed by the returning officer for Mr. George Crofton, that the proxy votes were: R. H. Truell, 12; Dr. Truell, 12; C. Evans Boyd, 12; F. Dick, 12; Colonel Atkinson, 12; Gun-Cunninghame, 12; Dr. Ball, 6; G. Crofton, 3; Drought, 1; Truell, 1; in all 115 votes, being the exact number claimed for Mr. Crofton.

I beg to submit that the validity and exact number of the votes can only be ascertained by an impartial examination and investigation, and that the Board ought not to refuse to order such, upon mere statement of Dr. Truell and the returning officer, particularly as Mr. Crofton, the party deemed to be elected, does not seek to sustain his claim, and the entire opposition to my return was got up by said Dr. Truell.

I am, &c.
(signed) *John Gaskin.*

The Secretary,
Local Government Board.

— No. 22. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. John Gaskin.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
31 May 1882.

Sir,
THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, on the subject of the return of Mr. Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskey Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union, and the Board desire to state that your letter will receive attention.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *B. Banks,*
Secretary.

John Gaskin, Esq.

— No. 23. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Clerk and Returning Officer.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
31 May 1882.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 22nd instant, relating to the objections raised by Mr. Gaskin to the return of Mr. Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killakey Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union, the Local Government Board for Ireland forward to you herewith a copy of a further letter* which they have received from Mr. Gaskin on the subject, and they request that you will be good enough to state the number of proxy votes allowed in each of the cases named by him.

In the cases of Mr. R. H. Truell and Mr. C. Evans Boyd, you have already stated that the number of votes allowed in each case was four, and not 12, as stated by Mr. Gaskin, but in the other cases in which it is stated that 12 votes were allowed, the Board request that you will state the grounds on which you felt warranted in allowing so large a number in respect of property not in the occupation of the ratepayer.

The Clerk and Returning Officer,
Rathdrum Union.By Order, &c.
(signed) *B. Banks*,
Secretary.

— No. 24. —

LETTER from the Clerk and Returning Officer to the Local Government Board.

(Rathdrum Union.)

Sir,

Board Room, Workhouse, 3 June 1882.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultmo. forwarding a copy of a further letter received by the Local Government Board from Mr. John Gaskin on the subject of his objection to the return of Mr. Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killakey Electoral Division of this union in March last.

And in reference thereto I beg to forward to you a copy of the poll sheet used by me in recording the votes given on the occasion in question, from which will be seen the entire number of votes given in the election under both proxy appointments and claims for extra votes to be given in person.

I have also added at foot the numbers of votes given for each candidate by rated occupiers.

With reference to your inquiry as to the grounds on which I felt warranted in allowing so large a number of votes in respect of property not in the occupation of the ratepayer, I beg to state, as I have already mentioned, that I was always under the impression that owners in fee-simple not being entitled to deduct poor rates from any superior landlord, were in consequence entitled to double votes, the same as in the case of occupiers.

I have always acted on this assumption, and have not now for the first time adopted this principle.

B. Banks, Esq., Secretary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Manning*,
Clerk and Returning Officer.

Enclosure in No. 24.

POLL SHEET.

RATHDRUM UNION.—KILLISKEY ELECTORAL DIVISION.

LIST of LANDLORDS entitled to Net Rents, OWNERS of TITHE RENT-CHARGE and OCCUPIERS, by whom Statements have been made; also of OWNERS of IMMEDIATE LESSORS rated under the provisions of the Acts 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, ss. 1 and 4; 12 & 13 Vict. c. 91, s. 63; and 12 & 13 Vict. c. 104, s. 10, who have made Statements of Claim to Vote in Person, and of PROXIES who have been appointed to Vote for Landlords, Owners of Tithe Rent-Charge, or Owners of Immediate Lessors rated as aforesaid.

Occupier, Landlord, and Owners of Tithe Rent-Charge, whether Individuals, Corporations, or Joint Stock Companies.	Brokers.	Places at which Voting Papers are to be left.	Amounts of Net Rents or Net Tithe Rent-Charges in respect of which Votes may be given in the Ward or Electoral Division.	Record Number of Votes for Mr. Crotton.		Record Number of Votes for Mr. Gaskins.	
				of Votes, for Mr. Crotton.	of Votes, for Mr. Gaskins.		
1. Charles Tottenham	-	-	£. s. d.				
1. Charles Tottenham	-	-	At Ballykeny House	420 - -	12	-	-
2. Charles G. Tottenham	-	-	ditto	350 2 8	6	-	-
3. Henry P. Trebil	-	-	At Ballykeny Cottages	438 - -	12	12	-
4. William W. F. Doh	Henry P. Trebil	-	ditto	150 - -	6	3	-
5. John T. Evans Boyd	-	ditto	ditto	21 - -	4	4	-
6. Thomas Boyd	-	ditto	ditto	21 - -	4	4	-
7. Robert H. Trebil	-	ditto	ditto	21 - -	4	4	-
8. Rev. William Trust	-	ditto	ditto	50 - -	6	6	-
9. Edward Atkinson	-	ditto	ditto	106 10	12	12	-
10. Rev. John G. Bell	-	ditto	ditto	281 3 8	10	10	-
11. M. J. McCormack	-	ditto	ditto	209 4 8	6	6	-
12. C. H. D. Gee-Cunningham	-	ditto	ditto	239 15 0	12	12	-
13. George Crotton	-	-	At Inchmappie House	98 - -	3	3	-
14. Rev. G. M. Drought	-	-	At Killiskey Rectory	21 19 -	2	2	-
Votes given by Rated Occupiers				- - -	83	-	-
					92	35	-
TOTAL				115	55	-	-

— No. 26. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. John Gaskin.

Local Government Board, Dublin,

6 June 1882.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 24th ultmo. on the subject of the late election of a guardian for Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union, in which you state the number of property and proxy votes recorded for Mr. Crofton, according to a list taken by you at the time of counting the votes, the Local Government Board for Ireland desire to acquaint you that they have received from the returning officer a copy of the poll-sheet used by him in recording the votes, from which it appears that although the number of votes recorded in some individual cases varies from the number stated by you, the total number of such votes is the same, namely, 83.

It appears, however, that owing to a misapprehension of the provisions of the first section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, the returning officer has allowed a larger number of votes in many of these cases than that section authorises, having, he states, been always under the impression that owners in fee-simple, not being entitled to deduct poor rate from any superior landlord, were in consequence entitled to double votes, the same as occupiers.

The following statement shows the number of votes stated by you to have been allowed; the number of votes recorded on the list of landlords, &c., entitled to vote; the net rent, &c., in respect of which those votes were recorded; and the true number of votes which those rents, &c., would justify:—

NAME OF OWNER.	NAME OF PROPERTY.	NUMBER OF VOTES ALLOWED ACCORDING TO MR. GASKIN.	NUMBER OF VOTES ALLOWED ACCORDING TO RETURNING OFFICER.	AMOUNT OF NET RENT.	NUMBER OF VOTES THAT COULD PROPERLY BE ALLOWED.
R. H. Truell	—	12	4	21	9
Dr. Truell	—	12	12	450	9
C. H. Boyd	—	12	4	91	9
F. Dack	—	12	8	150	5
Colonel Adkinson	—	12	12	366	10
Geo. Cunningham	—	12	12	250	6
Dr. Bell	—	6	10	281	5
G. Crofton	—	5	3	88	3
— Brewster	—	1	2	24	10
— Truell	—	1	0	59	3
Thomas Boyd	—	—	4	21	9
M. J. McCormick	—	—	0	200	4
TOTAL		83	83	—	40

It thus appears that the returning officer allowed to Mr. Crofton 34 votes in excess of the proper number in respect of property claims, but as the majority of votes on the entire voting obtained by Mr. Crofton was 40, the correction of these errors would not alter the result of the election, and there appears to be no ground for questioning Mr. Crofton's right to act as the guardian elected.

John Gaskin, Esq.

By Order, &c.

(signed)

W. D. Wodsworth,
Assistant Secretary.

— No. 26. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Clerk and Returning Officer.

Local Government Board, Dublin,

6 June 1882.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant and its enclosure, in reference to a communication received from Mr. John Gaskin, on the subject of his objection to the return of Mr. Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union; and the Board forward to you herewith a copy of a letter* which they have addressed to Mr. Gaskin on the subject.

By Order, &c.

The Clerk and Returning Officer,
Rathdrum Union.(signed) W. D. Woodsworth,
Assistant Secretary.

* See No. 23.

— No. 27. —

LETTER from Mr. Gaskin to the Local Government Board.

Newtown Boswell, Ashford,

9 June 1882.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the 6th June instant of the Local Government Board, in reference to my objections to the return of Mr. George Crofton as poor law guardian for the Killiskey Division of the Rathdrum Union, and stating that it appears from an examination of the poll-sheet used by the returning officer, that he has erroneously allowed Mr. Crofton 34 votes in excess of the proper number in respect of property claims, which reduces the total majority of 40 votes claimed for Mr. Crofton, to six votes over the 75 occupier votes admittedly given for me.

In reply, I beg to refer to my former letters to the Board showing that I claimed 78 votes instead of 75 mentioned by the returning officer, and the several objections I made, and which I repeat, to the occupier votes of Mr. Richards and Captain Walsh, also those of Colonel Atkinson not being signed by him, and the property proxy votes of Mr. Boyd and a Mr. Truell (not Dr. Truell) as having no property in the district; and I object to Mr. McCormack's votes which I now hear of for the first time, not having any note or recollection of its having been produced at, or included in, the counting of the votes. I repeat also I have reason to believe that the nomination paper and several of the proxy papers were not legally signed, and I submit that ample grounds exist to induce the Board to order the scrutiny I have so repeatedly asked for.

I am, &c.

The Secretary,
Local Government Board.

(signed) John Gaskin.

— No. 28. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. Gaskin.

Local Government Board, Dublin,

13 June 1882.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 9th instant, in reference to the late election of a guardian for Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union; and the Board desire to

state that, having regard to the 88th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, which provides that the returning officer shall, according to the best of his judgment and ability, make a true return of the persons who shall be elected as guardians, and that every person returned by such officer shall be deemed to be legally elected, they are not prepared to exercise the power given to them by the 23rd section of the 6 & 7 Vict c. 92, to inquire, if they see fit, into the right of the person so returned to act as an elective guardian without some reasonable grounds of objection to the return being shown, with a statement of the evidence that can be produced in support of the objection.

No grounds have been stated by you in support of your claim to have 78 occupation votes recorded for you, instead of 75, as allowed by the returning officer, nor have you mentioned any evidence by which you propose to sustain the objections referred to in your letter.

If you will state specifically the further cases in which you object to the returning officer's decision, with the grounds of your objection in each case, and the evidence by which you propose to support the objection, the Board will at once consider the propriety of investigating those cases, with a view to the question of Mr. Crofton's right to act as an elective guardian.

By Order, &c.

John Gaskin, Esq.

(signed) B. Banks, Secretary.

— No. 29. —

EXTRACT from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians, at a Meeting held on Friday the 16th day of June 1882.

Present.—In the Chair, Colonel Tighe, D.L., Chairman.

Other Guardians.—Captain Drought, J.P., Vice Chairman; Messrs. John J. Carley, Edward Murphy, John Byrne, and J. Delahunt.

Read.—Letter from Mr. John Gaskin, Newtown Boswell, dated the 15th instant, requesting the guardians to have the goodness to pass a resolution allowing him to inspect the requisite papers in the custody of the clerk of the union, relating to the election of a guardian for the electoral division of Killiskey in this union in March last, wherein he was one of the candidates.

Resolved.—That Mr. Gaskin be allowed, in accordance with his application, to inspect the voting papers.

Passed unanimously.

— No. 30. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. Gaskin.

Local Government Board, Dublin,

4 July 1882.

Sir,
WITH reference to the letter addressed to you on the 13th ultimo relating to the late election for the office of guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union, the Local Government Board for Ireland request that they may be informed whether you are in a position to furnish them with a statement of any specific votes which you may object to as having been improperly recorded for Mr. Crofton in addition to those mentioned in your letter of the 9th ultimo. The Board are prepared to make inquiry as to the validity of the votes referred to by you in that communication.

The Board will also be prepared to consider your statement that the nomination paper was not legally signed, if you will state the nature of the alleged illegality.

The Board observe by the guardians' minutes of the 16th ultimo that you applied

applied for and obtained permission to inspect the papers relating to the election which are in the custody of the clerk of the union.

John Gaskin, Esq.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *B. Hanks, Secretary.*

— No. 31. —

LETTER from Mr. Gaskin to the Local Government Board.

Nestown Boswell, Ashford,

7 July 1882.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th July instant, referring to your letter of the 13th June last, relative to my objections to the return of Mr. George Crofton as guardian for the Killaskey Division of the Rathdrum Union, and requesting me to inform the Local Government Board whether I was in a position to furnish a statement of any specific objections to votes in addition to those to which I had objected, and that the Board were prepared to make inquiry into the validity of the votes referred to, and to state that I would have sooner replied to your letter of the 13th June, but a domestic bereavement prevented me from doing so.

In order to fully state my objections, I, as you observe, applied for and obtained from the board of guardians of the Rathdrum Union liberty to inspect the voting papers, &c., and on Wednesday the 21st June I attended at the board room with my solicitor, and I had the several papers examined. Mr. Crofton, Dr. Treall, and Mr. Welsh, as agent for the Constitutional Club, attended to witness my investigation (the proceedings are reported in the "Wicklow News Letter" of 24th June Inst.). I now beg to furnish more specific objections to the votes recorded for Mr. George Crofton by the returning officer.

I refer to the letter of the Local Government Board of the 6th June last, whereby it appears that the Board reduced 34 proxy votes from the majority of 40 votes which the returning officer had recorded for Mr. Crofton, thus reducing the majority against me to six votes.

From the examination it has been ascertained and admitted that in recording the proxy votes of Messrs. Fitzwilliam, Dick, Gun-Cunningham, and Rev. Dr. Ball, their votes have been allowed on their rental out of the property, and not on the valuation, and in consequence four more votes should be struck off. This the returning officer on the recent examination admitted, and reduces the majority against me to two votes.

I further object to all the proxy papers as being irregularly signed by Dr. Treall, and not in compliance with the requirement that the proxy should state "under his signature" for whom he is proxy.

I further object to the proxy votes of Rev. Dr. Ball, as he pays a head rent of 189*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* a year to Mr. McCormack for the lands of Courtfouye, out of which he claims to vote, the valuation being but 182*l.*, and Mr. McCormack has been allowed six votes out of the same lands.

I further object to the proxy vote for John P. Evans Boyd, the claim to vote being by John T. Evans Boyd.

I further object to the proxy votes for two persons of the name of Boyd, voting out of some claim for 21*l.* a year each out of property of Colonel Tottenham, which I believe has no legal foundation, and that they are not liable to poor's rate.

I further object to the proxy vote for Mr. F. Dick, the claim being by William Wentworth Fitzwilliam Dick.

I again object to the nomination paper for Mr. Crofton as not being signed in the proper handwriting of Colonel Atkinson, who is mentioned as nominator.

I object to the occupier votes of C. W. Richards and Captain Walsh as not in the rate-book, and not having any property in the electoral district, and not paying any rates.

I have to complain that voting papers were not issued or delivered to the following rated occupiers in the district, viz., Ellen Moran, M. Cooney, George McGrainer, and John Campbell, all of whom would have voted for me. I must observe in the manifest injustice in the valuation in the district by which Catholic occupier

occupier votes are lost; thus Bryan Byrne, valuation 99*l.*; John Turner, 49*l.*; L. Cullen, 19*l.* 15*s.*; J. Smyth, 19*l.* 5*s.*, &c.; the result is apparent as depriving them of additional votes.

I could state further valid objections, but I consider I have stated sufficient to displace the now majority of two against me, and to entitle me to a scrutiny, and to be declared the elected guardian.

The Secretary,
Local Government Board.

I am, &c.
(signed) *John Gaskin.*

— No. 32. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. *Crofton.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
12 July 1882.

The Local Government Board for Ireland received on the 30th of March last, a memorial from Mr. Gaskin on the subject of the election of a guardian for Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union, in which he objected to your being declared the elected guardian for that division, and claimed to be declared entitled to the office, and prayed that the matter might be examined into, and that he might be declared duly elected or that a new election might be held.

The Board have since had a lengthened correspondence with Mr. Gaskin and with the returning officer, from which they gather that the grounds on which Mr. Gaskin disputes the validity of your return, by the returning officer, are as follows :

1. That your nomination was not signed in the proper handwriting of Colonel Atkinson, who is mentioned therein as the nominator.
2. That the number of votes allowed in respect of property and proxy claims was, in almost every instance, greater than the number allowed by law, and that in some of those cases the parties have no property in the district; also, that the occupation votes allowed to Mr. Richards and Captain Walsh ought not to have been allowed, nor should those of Colonel Atkinson, the paper not being signed by him. There are also specific objections to certain of the proxy claims, as set forth in the enclosed extract from a letter* from Mr. Gaskin, dated the 7th instant.

See No. 31.
Mr. Gaskin also complains that voting papers were not issued to the following rated occupiers, viz.:—Ellen Moran, M. Cooney, George McGrainer, and John Campbell.

The Board are about to issue instructions for an inquiry on oath on the subject, under the 23rd section of the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, but they will be glad in the first instance to receive any observations you may desire to make on the subject.

George Crofton, Esq.,
Inebnappa, Rathdrum.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *B. Banks, Secretary.*

— No. 33. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Mr. *Gaskin.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
12 July 1882.

Sir,
The Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, in reference to your objections to the return of Mr. George Crofton as the guardian elected for the Killiskey Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union, and the Board desire to state that they are now prepared to

to direct an inquiry on oath under the 23rd section of the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, but they have thought it right in the first instance to communicate your objections to Mr. Crofton, and to afford him an opportunity of submitting any observations which he may desire to make on the subject.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *B. Banks, Secretary.*

John Gaskin, Esq.

— No. 34. —

LETTER from Mr. George Crofton to the Local Government Board.

Sir,
Inchnappa, 17 July 1882.
With reference to your letter of 12th instant, I beg to give the following answers to your queries. With reference to the nomination paper not being signed by Colonel Atkinson, I can produce Colonel Atkinson, who has signed it in the presence of a friend of mine. No. 2. The number of property votes allowed by Mr. Manning were according to his reading of the law, which he had invariably acted on, as also his predecessor in office. No. 3. In all the proxies used by Dr. Truell, the persons were entitled to rent out of the properties for which claims had been made, which can be proved on investigation. No. 4. The claims of Mr. Richards and Captain Welch were allowed by the Board, as they were in occupation of their holdings. No. 5. It can be easily proved that Colonel Atkinson did sign his voting paper.

B. Banks, Esq. I am, &c.
(signed) *G. Crofton.*

— No. 35. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. Mac Cabe.

Sir,
Local Government Board,
20 July 1882.
The Local Government Board for Ireland forward to you herewith a series of papers* relating to the election of a guardian in March last for the Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union, and the Board request that you will inquire on oath into the validity of the nomination of Mr. Crofton, which you will observe is questioned by Mr. Gaskin, and into the validity of the several votes regarding which questions have been raised in the correspondence with Mr. Gaskin.

You will observe that nearly all the proxy and property votes are questioned by Mr. Gaskin, and that there is reason to believe that a larger number of votes has been recorded in many of those cases than the law permits; that the right of certain persons to vote as occupiers is also questioned; and that complaint is made by Mr. Gaskin that voting papers were not issued to a number of rated occupiers who were entitled to vote.

You will of course give notice to the returning officer and to Mr. Gaskin and Mr. Crofton of the time you may fix for the inquiry.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *B. Banks, Secretary.*
Dr. MacCabe,
Local Government Inspector.

— No. 36. —

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Messrs. Gaskin and Crofton.

Sir,
Local Government Board, Dublin,
20 July 1882.
The Local Government Board for Ireland desire to inform you that they have instructed their Inspector, Dr. MacCabe, to inquire into the questions which have

have been raised in the correspondence which has taken place on the subject of the election of a guardian for the electoral division of Killiskey for the current year.

Dr. MacCabe will give due notice of the time he may fix for the inquiry.

By Order, &c.

John Gaskin, Esq., and
G. Crofton, Esq.

(signed) *B. Banks, Secretary.*

— No. 37. —

LETTER from Mr. John J. Dodd to the Local Government Board.

Sir,

Mr. John Gaskin of Ashford has handed me your letter of 12th July instant, as Secretary of the Local Government Board, informing him in reference to the objections made to the return of Mr. George Crofton as the elected guardian for the Killiskey Division of the Rathdrum Union, that the Board were prepared to direct an inquiry on oath, and Mr. Gaskin has instructed me to act for him on the inquiry.

I have therefore to ask you to kindly inform me when and where the inquiry will be held, and from whom I can obtain summonses for the attendance of the witnesses requisite to substantiate the objections made on Mr. Gaskin's behalf.

The favour of a reply will much oblige.

Yours, &c.

The Secretary, Local Government Board,
Custom House.

(signed) *John J. Dodd.*

— No. 38. —

LETTER from Local Government Board to Mr. J. Dodd.

Local Government Board, Dublin,

25 July 1882.

Sir,

The Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, requesting information in regard to the proposed inquiry into the objections made to the return of Mr. George Crofton as the elected guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union; and, in reply, the Board desire to inform you that Dr. MacCabe, the inspector of the district, has been instructed to hold the inquiry, and he will give due notice of the time and place he may fix for holding it.

Your letter will be referred to Dr. MacCabe.

By Order, &c.

John J. Dodd, Esq., Solicitor,
Wicklow.

(signed) *B. Banks, Secretary.*

— No. 39. —

REPORT of Dr. MacCabe, Local Government Inspector, to the Local Government Board.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that, acting on the instructions contained in your letter of the 20th of July, I held on the 1st instant in the board-room of Rathdrum Workhouse, an inquiry into the validity of the nomination of Mr. Crofton, the elected guardian returned at the last annual election to represent the Electoral Division

Dublin, 4 August 1882.

Division

Division of Killiskey in Rathdrum Union, and into the validity of the several votes recorded for Mr. Crofton, regarding which questions had been raised by Mr. Gaskin, who had also been a candidate for the representation of the Killiskey Electoral Division.

In transmitting herewith the minutes of evidence taken at the inquiry, I beg to observe that the inquiry itself necessarily assumed the form of a discussion as to the validity of the votes, the legal representatives of Mr. Crofton and Mr. Gaskin taking part in such discussion, and that a great deal that passed at the inquiry could not be recorded and forwarded to the Local Government Board in the form of sworn evidence. In presenting my report, I am therefore obliged occasionally to submit the conclusions at which I arrived, referring to the notes of evidence and to documents bearing upon the several objections as I proceed, and to ask the Local Government Board to consider the report, the evidence, and the documents as the materials from which it is to be hoped they will be able to form their conclusions respecting the issues involved in the inquiry. Wherever in the minutes of evidence I have summarised the substance of an objection, as, for instance, under the head of the fourth objection, the summary placed on record has been acknowledged by the professional representatives of the candidates to have their concurrence.

It is also desirable to remark that, in conducting the inquiry, I felt bound to assume that Mr. Crofton had been legally returned, and to throw the onus of proof to the contrary on Mr. Gaskin through his legal representative. I departed from this course with regard to the first objection only, as it was obviously more convenient (Colonel Atkinson being in attendance) to call him to prove the validity of the nomination. With respect to all the other objections, it is proper to add that the course I felt constrained to adopt placed Mr. Gaskin in a difficult position, as some witnesses who could have given important evidence resided beyond the distance within which an inspector's summons could compel attendance, and some witnesses duly summoned on his behalf failed to attend.

I have classified Mr. Gaskin's objections, as set forth in his letter of the 7th of July last, under the objections numbered from No. 1 to No. 10, and except as to the objection respecting the validity of the nomination, I now beg to report upon them in the same order:—

Objection No. 1.—Validity of the Nomination.

I have to report that the nomination was valid; Colonel Atkinson stated, on oath, that the nomination paper was signed by him.

Objections Nos. 2 and 5.—Number of Proxy Votes allowed by the Returning Officer.

No. 2.—It is acknowledged by the returning officer, and not questioned on behalf of either candidate, that the number of proxy votes returned on the poll-sheet opposite the names given ought to be as follows:

				Votes.
(3.)	Henry P. Truell	-	-	5
(4.)	Wm. W. F. Dick	-	-	4
(5.)	John T. Evans Boyd	-	-	2
(6.)	Thomas Boyd	-	-	2
(7.)	Robert H. Truell	-	-	2
(8.)	Rev. Wm. Truell	-	-	3
(9.)	Edward Atkinson	-	-	6
(12.)	C. R. D. Cunningham	-	-	4
(13.)	George Crofton	-	-	3
(14.)	Rev. J. M. Drought	-	-	2
				<hr/>
				34
				<hr/>
(10.)	Rev. J. J. Ball	-	-	5 (doubtful and questioned)
(11.)	Mr. MacCormack	-	-	6
				<hr/>
				11+34=45

In respect of these 10 proxies it may be concluded that the original decision of the returning officer, by which he allowed them 67 votes, was erroneous, and that the number which ought to have been allowed is 34.

No. 5.—With regard to the proxy votes of (No. 10 on Poll-sheet) the Rev. John G. Ball, and (No. 11 on Poll-sheet) Mr. M. J. MacCormack, the evidence is not conclusive. It is quite certain that the number of votes originally allowed to the Rev. Mr. Ball, namely, 10, ought not, even if he were entitled to proxy votes, to have exceeded five, but on behalf of Mr. Gaskin it is contended that he was not entitled to any proxy votes, inasmuch as he is a middle landlord, and pays to his superior landlord, Mr. MacCormack, a rent equal to the valuation of the premises. In support of this contention, Mr. Wilson was sworn and put in the letters 5a, 5b, which appear to show that the Rev. Mr. Ball occupies the position of receiver of rents, so far at least as Mr. Wilson is concerned. If the Rev. Mr. Ball, as he claims, has a profit rent, he would appear to be entitled to not more than three votes, on the differences between the rent receivable and the rent payable by him to Mr. MacCormack. On examination of the Forms B 1, referring to the respective claims of the Rev. J. G. Ball and Mr. M. J. MacCormack, I am quite unable to understand the original decision of the returning officer as to the votes allowed in these cases.

The Rev. Mr. Ball's proxy appointment, it will be observed, is at variance with his letters to the tenant (letters to Mr. Wilson, B.), because he states in the appointment that he pays no rent. If he pays no rent Mr. MacCormack's proxy appointment is incorrect as regards the particulars inserted respecting the Rev. Mr. Ball, and on the other hand, the particulars of rent receivable from the Rev. Mr. Ball, as given by Mr. MacCormack, confirm the statement in the letters addressed by the Rev. Mr. Ball to the tenant, Mr. Wilson.

Objection No. 3.—Proxy Votes of Messrs. Dick, Cunningham, and Dr. Bell.

I have to report that the objections are well founded, and the necessary corrections are made under the head of Objections 2 and 5 (Examination of the Proxy Votes).

Objection No. 4.—Proxy Papers irregularly Signed.

The value of this objection can be estimated on examination of the two voting papers I forward herewith.

It appears to me that the voting papers contain all the essential particulars and are valid. The objection really amounts to this, that the particulars entered on the left side of the voting paper ought to have been inscribed on the right, under the signature of the proxy.

Objection No. 6.—Proxy Vote of John P. Evans Boyd.

The claim to vote is in the name of John T. Evans Boyd; the voting paper states the voter to be John P. Evans Boyd. Both papers herewith.

Objection No. 7.—Two Proxy Votes in name of Boyd.

Proxy votes were recorded in favour of Mr. Crofton by Dr. Truell, on appointments made by J. T. Evans Boyd and Thomas Boyd, both of New Ross. These claims profess to be based upon "freeholds" on Colonel Tottenham's property. Colonel Tottenham was proved to have been duly summoned, and his letter acknowledges the receipt of the summons. The deeds granting the "rent-charges" (Colonel Tottenham's letter) Colonel Tottenham, in his letter, says he thinks were executed in 1879. The returning officer allowed the claims on Dr. Truell's statement, but they did not appear until just before the recent election; the names are not on the rate-books. Mr. M. Reilly, on whose holding the Thomas Boyd claim appears to be charged, swore that he pays his rent to Colonel Tottenham, that he knows nothing of either of the Boyds, and that he never paid them any rent. In the absence of the Boyds and of Colonel Tottenham, the Local Government Board will be so good as to decide whether these votes ought to have been allowed.

Objection

Objection No. 8.—Voting paper of W. W. F. Dick.

The objection in this case, as set forth in Mr. Gaskin's letter, is that the proxy vote is for "Mr. F. Dick," the claim being by "William Westworth Fitzwilliam Dick."

I forward the appointment and voting paper herewith; the voting paper is filled in "W. F. Dick, Esq., not "Mr. F. Dick."

Objection No. 9.—To the Occupier Votes of C. W. Richards and Captain Welsh.

Mr. C. W. Richards failed to attend although duly summoned, and by his note acknowledges receipt of summons.

Both of the claims (C. W. Richards and Richard T. Welsh), were originally made under Section 110 of the Parliamentary Voters Act, and the names were inserted on the 10th March 1882.

Captain Welsh's claim appears to be valid, as he is in occupation of the holding out of which he claims, and swears he is liable for the occupier's proportion of the poor-rate.

Dr. Truell's evidence affords all the information elicited as to Mr. Richard's claim.

Objection No. 10.—Voting Papers not issued to Rated Occupiers.

The returning officer admits that Michael Cooney, rated at 12*l.*, was entitled to a voting paper, and that it was an oversight on his part not to have issued such voting paper.

In the case of Ellen Moran, he says the rating is on "the representatives of Ellen Moran," and that no individual claimed to be rated.

George McGrainer's valuation is under 4*l.*, and the immediate lessor is rated in respect of his holding.

John Campbell is rated jointly with two others for a holding valued at 11*l. 5s.*, and voting papers were not issued to any person in respect of that holding.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. X. MacCabe,*
Local Government Inspector.

The Secretary,

Local Government Board for Ireland.

Enclosure 1, in No. 39.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mr. J. GASKIN'S OBJECTIONS.

1.—OBJECTION TO NOMINATION PAPER as "not being signed in the proper handwriting of Colonel Atkinson, who is mentioned as Nominator."

Mr. Bernard Manning having been duly sworn, stated: I am the returning officer. When I received the nomination paper, I believed it to be signed by Colonel Atkinson.

Lieut.-Colonel Edward Atkinson having been duly sworn, stated: The signature to the nomination paper is in my own handwriting.

(signed) *E. D. Atkinson, Lieut.-Colonel.*

Sworn before me, this 1st day of August.

(signed) *F. MacCabe.*

2.—OBJECTION TO PROXY VOTES.

Henry P. Truell, Six Votes.—Mr. Manning continued,—I have returned on the poll sheet Henry P. Truell as being entitled to 12 votes. I have since ascertained that Dr. Truell is entitled to six votes.

Wm. W. F. Dick, Four Votes.—Mr. Wm. W. F. Dick should be reduced to four votes. The valuation is 133*l. 10s.*; the proper number should therefore be four votes.

John

John T. Evans Boyd, Two Votes.—John T. Evans Boyd, if entitled to appoint a proxy, would be entitled to two votes.

Thomas Boyd, Two Votes.—Thomas Boyd's case stands on exactly the same footing, two votes.

Robert H. Truell, Two Votes.—Colonel Truell's case is precisely similar to the other two, two votes.

Rev. Wm. Truell, Three Votes.—Rev. Wm. Truell is credited with six votes, and he ought only to have three.

Colonel Edward Atkinson, Six Votes.—In Colonel Atkinson's case I have recorded 12 votes, and he ought only to have six.

The Rev. John G. Ball, Five Votes.—The Rev. John G. Ball is credited with 10 votes, and ought only to have five. (Objected to altogether. *See* Evidence under No. 6.)

M. J. McCormack, Six Votes.—In Mr. McCormack's case six votes is, in my opinion, correct. (See also Objection No. 6, Dr. Ball's case.)

C. R. D. J. Cunningham, Four Votes.—Mr. Cunningham ought only to have four votes. The valuation is 14*£* *5s*.

Mr. George Crofton, Three Votes.—In Mr. Crofton's case the number of votes is correct; three votes.

Rev. G. M. Drought, Two Votes.—The vote is correct; two votes.

THIRD OBJECTION.

(Disposed of under examination of proxy votes; it is well founded.)

FOURTH OBJECTION.

The objection under this head is, in effect, that although the voting paper put in by the proxy contains, substantially, the particulars required by the Act of Parliament, those particulars are not inserted in the right place, as evidenced by the marked paper herewith.

FIFTH OBJECTION.—Dr. BALL'S CASE.

Mr. William Wilson, having been duly sworn, stated, the letters produced I received from Dr. Ball; they are in his handwriting (marked No. 5 *a* and *b*).

On behalf of Mr. Crofton it is objected that the date of the letters is prior to the date of the election.

Mr. B. Manning (continued on No. 5 Objection). Dr. Ball claims a profit rent of 28*£* *5s*. *5d*. as a landlord upon property valued at 182*£*, according to the claim. Dr. Ball claims, as landlord, on a property valued at 182*£*. I was satisfied as to the validity of that claim. In Mr. McCormack's claim there are two townlands which do not appear in Dr. Ball's claim, valued at 49*£* *5s*. (Carricknamuck, Lower and Upper). Mr. McCormack also claims as a landlord; Mr. McCormack claims as superior landlord; Dr. Ball claims as landlord intervening between Mr. McCormack and the tenant occupier for the other two townlands (Courtfoyle and Callenmore).

(The contention on behalf of Mr. Gaakin is, that Dr. Ball is not entitled to any vote, even if, as stated by Mr. Manning in his evidence, he receives a profit rent, because the rent be paid to Mr. McCormack in itself is a sum equivalent to the valuation of the property in respect of which these claims arise, and it is to prove this that letters *5a* and *b* are put in.)

Under this head no formal objection is made to Mr. McCormack's votes.

SIXTH OBJECTION.—John P. Evans Boyd, the claim being John T. Evans Boyd. Paper forwarded herewith.

SEVENTH OBJECTION.—Two Proxy Votes in Name of Boyd.

Denis William Maras having been duly sworn, proved the service of the summons on Colonel Tottenham's butler yesterday, the 31st July 1882, at five minutes past 12 o'clock, at Colonel Tottenham's hall-door (a letter of apology sent by post awaited the inspector when he took his seat at the inquiry).

Mr. B. Manning, continued.—When I allowed those two Boyd proxy votes I did it entirely on the statement of Dr. Truell. They did not appear before the present election; their names do not appear on the rate books.

Mr. Michael

Mr. Michael Reilly having been duly sworn, stated,—I live in the Electoral Division of Killiskey, Ost, and pay Colcock Tottenham, who is my landlord. I know nothing of John T. Evans Boyd and Thomas Boyd, and I never paid them any rent (the claim professes to be out of this tenant's holding).

(signed) *Michael Reilly.*

Sworn before me, this 1st day of August 1882.

(signed) *F. MacCabe.*

EIGHTH OBJECTION.—Voting Paper of W. W. F. Dick.

Evidence herewith in two documents, marked Eighth Objection.

NINTH OBJECTION.—C. W. Richards and Captain Walsh's Votes.

Mr. D. E. Morris, already sworn, proved the service on Mr. Richards, at Dr. Truell's house.

Mr. B. Manning.—There are rated occupiers on the rate books named C. W. Richards and Richard T. Walsh; they were put on on the 10th March 1882. Claims in writing were put in under the 110th section of the Parliamentary Voters' Act, and on those claims their names were inserted. So far as Captain Walsh is concerned, it is within my knowledge that he has a residence at the place in respect of which he claims. As to Mr. Richards, I have no knowledge except through Dr. Truell, whose statement satisfied the guardians.

Dr. H. B. Truell, M.B., having been duly sworn, stated,—I know C. W. Richards: he is a tenant of mine for lands in Killiskey, since early in February 1882; there is no written document; he has not paid any rent yet; it is not due; he has not yet paid any rate, rate not being yet due. There is a caretaker there, put in long since by myself, but now employed by Mr. Richards. Mr. C. W. Richards has cattle there since early in March. I gave him possession of the land in February; he is my wife's nephew. He will pay the usual tenant's proportion of the rates. I have paid the rate last struck, viz. in June, in August, in the ordinary course; the next rate which would become payable would be rate struck in June 1882, I having paid all the rates due up to June.

(signed) *H. B. Truell.*

Sworn before me, this 1st day of August 1882.

(signed) *F. MacCabe.*

Captain Richard T. Walsh, having been duly sworn, stated,—I am a rated occupier. I expressed a wish to Dr. Truell to be put on; I hold from Dr. Truell, under lease, and I am liable to pay the tenant's proportion of poor-rate. My rent is 32 £ 10 s. I have been in possession since September 1880 of the house; of the lands since March 1881. By arrangement Dr. Truell pays the taxes, but I recomp him. The first tax I repaid is in May 1882.

(signed) *Richard T. Walsh.*

Sworn before me, this 1st day of August 1882.

(signed) *F. MacCabe.*

TENTH OBJECTION.—Non-issue of Voting Papers.

Mr. Manning, continued,—With regard to "Ellen Moran," the entry on the rate-book is representatives of "Ellen Moran," and no claim was made.

"M. Cooney." I can find Michael Cooney valued at 12 £. He was entitled to a voting paper.

"George McGrainger" is rated under 4 £. The immediate lessor was rated.

"John Campbell" is rated jointly with two others for a holding valued at 11 £ 5 s. Voting papers were not issued to any person in respect of that holding.

(signed) *B. Manning,*
Returning Officer.

Sworn before me, this 1st day of August 1882.

(signed) *F. MacCabe.*

Mr. Manning's signature here refers to all the evidence given by him under the separate heads of objection.

Enclosure 2, in No. 39.

(5 A.)

The Rectory, St. Katherine's, Killybegs,
2 September 1881.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE been looking over my accounts with the Courisfoyle tenants, and as I wish to give them all correct receipts for all remittances made to me since I became receiver, I would feel obliged if you will kindly send me the receipts I gave you for six pounds sent me on the 16th September 1880, and also for six pounds sent me in October 1880. You may depend on my returning them to you punctually. May make as much haste as possible in making me another remittance, for I am in need after having paid 94 £ 11s. 8d. to Mr. John Mills, the agent of the head landlord, his half-year's rent due on the 1st May last, five weeks later than the 25th March 1881, when your last half-year became due. Please let me hear from you by return of post, and oblige,

Your Landlord and well-wisher,
(signed) John G. Bell.

(5 B.)

The Rectory, St. Katherine's, Killybegs,
22 August 1881.

Dear Sir,

On Saturday I duly expected to hear from you, with your half-year's rent, for which you refused to give me a bank bill, when we met at Mr. Byrne's last month, stating that you would give me the cash before this date. I believed you, and you have deceived and disappointed me. I have since received a letter from Mr. Mills, the agent of the chief landlord, calling on me for 94 £ 11s. 8d., and that sum I must pay, whether you pay me or not. It is, however, felt by me to be a great hardship. I, therefore, write to inform you that I am determined not to lower your rent one shilling. If you do not wish to pay it, you need only tell me so, and give me possession of your holding, for longer I cannot submit to pay a heavy chief rent for you, and then be forced to wait for your payments until you please to pay me. This can no longer be the case. You must either pay in proper time or cease to be my tenant, or (I should rather say) the tenant of the landlord for whom I collect the rents.

I have no more now to say, but to act when there appears to be no consideration for

Mr. W. Wilson, Courisfoyle.

Yours, &c.
(signed) John G. Bell.

Enclosure 3, in No. 39.

Sir.

Ballycurry, 31 July 1882.

This afternoon I received a summons signed by you requiring me to appear at the board-room of the Rathdrum Union Workhouse, Rathdrum, at 11 o'clock a.m. to-morrow, to answer questions and produce papers. The notice is so short, and the requisition to produce documents of such a nature as to make compliance with the summons impossible. It seems strange that it should not have been sent me before. I am suffering temporarily from a complaint on my throat which prevents me dressing myself properly, and I beg, therefore, you will kindly excuse my attendance for the present.

The deeds granting the rent-charges respectively to J. T. E. Boyd and Thomas Boyd are naturally in possession of the grantees. They were executed (I think) in January 1879, and are no doubt be produced by the grantees, if asked for.

Permit me to express my regret at being unable to comply with your summons for the moment, but that I hope, should you appoint a future day, to be able to attend and give you any information in my power, though I cannot undertake to get papers which properly belong to the grantees.

May I also venture to request that in any future summons you will kindly give me as long a notice as possible, as my time is much engaged, and I cannot give up engagements previously formed without inconvenience, which I feel sure it is not your wish to cause.

F. MacCabe, Esq.

I am, &c.
(signed) Charles G. Tottenham,
Colonel.

COPY OF SUMMONS.

To Colonel Charles G. Tottenhoe, M.R., of Ballyenry, County Wicklow.

PURSUANT to the powers given by an Act passed in the Eleventh year of the reign of Her present Majesty, Queen Victoria, entitled, "An Act to provide for the execution of the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland;" and by an Act passed in the Fifteenth year of Her said Majesty to provide for the better Distribution, Support and Management of Medical Charities in Ireland; and an Act passed in the Thirty-second year of Her said Majesty, entitled "An Act to extend the Powers of Poor Law Inspectors and Medical Inspectors in Ireland;" and also by an Act passed in the Thirty-fifth year of the reign of Her Majesty, entitled "An Act to amend the Law relating to the Local Government of Towns and Populous Places in Ireland."

These are to require you personally to appear before me, in the board-room of the Rathdrum Union Workhouse, Rathdrum, on Tuesday the 1st day of August 1882, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to answer upon oath, or otherwise, such questions as shall be put to you upon any matter connected with the objects or purposes, or the execution of the provisions of the said Acts, or any of them, or of the Sanitary Act, 1866.

And you are hereby required to bring with you all papers, documents, and receipts relating to the rent-charges claimed by John T. Evans Boyd and Thomas Boyd out of Bellashinch, in your possession or procurement.

Herein fail not, as you shall answer at your peril.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Booterstown, County Dublin, this 25th day of July, One thousand Eight hundred and Eighty-two.

Seal.

F. McCabe,
Local Government Inspector.

Enclosure 4, in No. 39.

Clonmannon, 31 July 1882.

Sir,
In reply to your notice I regret a previous appointment prevents my attending to-morrow's meeting. I am sure Dr. Truell will be able to answer any questions relating to my holding at Ballyhenry.

Yours, &c.
(signed) Charles Wm. Richards.

COPY OF SUMMONS.

To Christopher W. Richards, Esq., of Clonmannon, County Wicklow.

PURSUANT to the powers given by an Act passed in the Eleventh year of the reign of Her present Majesty, Queen Victoria, entitled, "An Act to provide for the execution of the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland;" and by an Act passed in the Fifteenth year of Her said Majesty to provide for the better Distribution, Support, and Management of Medical Charities in Ireland; and an Act passed in the Thirty-second year of Her said Majesty, entitled "An Act to extend the Powers of Poor Law Inspectors and Medical Inspectors in Ireland;" and also by an Act passed in the Thirty-fifth year of the reign of Her Majesty, entitled "An Act to amend the Law relating to the Local Government of Towns and Populous Places in Ireland."

These are to require you personally to appear before me, in the board-room of the Rathdrum Union Workhouse, Rathdrum, on Tuesday the 1st day of August 1882, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, to answer upon oath, or otherwise, such questions as shall be put to you upon any matter connected with the objects or purposes, or the execution of the provisions of the said Acts, or any of them, or of the Sanitary Act, 1866.

And you are hereby required to bring with you any papers, receipts, or documents relating to your alleged holding at Ballyhenry, in your possession or procurement.

Herein fail not, as you shall answer at your peril.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Booterstown, County Dublin, this 25th day of July, One thousand Eight hundred and Eighty-two.

Seal.

(signed) F. McCabe,
Local Government Inspector.

— No. 40. —

LETTER from Local Government Board to Dr. MacCabe, Local Government Inspector.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
5 August 1882.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your Report of the 4th instant, relating to the inquiry held by you on the 1st instant into the late election of a guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union.

By Order, &c.

Dr. MacCabe,
Local Government Inspector.

(signed) *H. D. Wodsworth*,
Assistant Secretary.

— No. 41. —

Letter from Local Government Board to Mr. Graskin.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
14 August 1882.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have had under their consideration the Report of their inspector, Dr. MacCabe, with the evidence taken by him at the Inquiry which he held on the 1st instant, into the validity of the nomination of Mr. Crofton as a candidate for the office of guardian for the electoral division of Killiskey, in the Rathdrum Union, at the annual election in the month of March last, and into the validity of the several votes which have formed the subject of correspondence with you.

In regard to the validity of Mr. Crofton's nomination, which was objected to on the ground that the nomination paper was not signed in the proper handwriting of Colonel Atkinson, who is mentioned as the nominator, it appears that the objection is not well founded, and that the nomination is valid, Colonel Atkinson having stated on oath that the signature to the nomination paper is in his own handwriting.

With reference to the validity of the votes referred to, the first objection appears to be that the number of votes recorded in respect of property and proxy claims was in excess of the proper number, and this objection appears to have been sustained. The following statement shows the number of such votes which were recorded by the returning officer for Mr. Crofton, and the reduced number which he now admits to be the true number which ought to have been recorded,

(Column 1.) Name of Lovelid.	(Column 2.) Name of Proxy.	(Column 3.) Number of Votes Allowed.	(Column 4.) Number of Votes that ought to have been Allowed.	(Column 5.) Excess of proper Number of Votes Allowed.
Henry P. Truell	—	12	0	0
Wm. W. F. Dick	Henry P. Truell	8	4	4
John J. Evans Boyd	ditto	4	2	2
Thomas Boyd	ditto	4	2	2
Robert H. Truell	ditto	4	2	2
Rev. Wm. Truell	ditto	0	0	0
Edwd. Atkinson	ditto	12	6	6
Rev. John G. Holt	ditto	10	5	5
M. J. McCormick	ditto	0	0	—
C. R. D. Goo-Cunningham	ditto	12	6	6
Geo. Geddes	ditto	8	8	—
Rev. G. M. Doughty	—	2	2	—
		33	45	12

The above statement is based on the assumption that the several parties named therein were duly entitled to vote to the extent stated in Column 4, but further objections are made in reference to the votes of Mr. W. F. Dick, Mr. J. Evans Boyd, Mr. Thomas Boyd, and the Rev. John G. Ball, which if sustained would render a further reduction in the number of votes recorded in the names of those gentlemen necessary.

1. Mr. Dick's Case.—The particular objections in this case are that the voting paper signed by Mr. Truell as proxy for Mr. Dick, is not properly executed, the proxy not having stated under his signature the name of the person for whom he is proxy; and further, that the claim to vote being in the name of William Wentworth Fitz-William Dick, the name in the voting paper is Mr. F. Dick.

The Board do not think that these objections are sustained, for although the directions for executing the voting paper, which are printed on the face of the paper, state that when a proxy votes he is to state under his signature the name of the person for whom he is proxy, there is no regulation to that effect, the Regulation (Article 25 of the General Election Order) merely requiring that the proxy shall state on the voting paper the name of the person for whom he is proxy, but does not specify the position in which the name is to be placed. The name of the person by whom the proxy is given, which is stated on the face of the voting paper, is not, as alleged in the objection, "Mr. F. Dick," but "W. F. Dick, Esq., of Humewood," and this appears to be sufficient.

2. Mr. J. Evans Boyd.—There are two objections in this case; the first is that the proxy is given by J. T. Evans Boyd, but the name stated by the proxy on the voting paper is J. P. Evans Boyd; the second objection is that two persons of the name of Boyd have claimed to vote out of the same interest, which has no legal foundation, and that they are not liable to poor rate.

As to the first part of the objection, the Board do not regard it as material, but the Board do not think that it has been shown that Mr. Boyd has the right to vote which he claims; the claim to vote is made in respect of freehold houses and lands in the townland of Ballinalacken, and the names of tenants by whom poor rate is deducted from the rent are given; but one of these tenants swears that he pays Colonel Tottenham, who is his landlord, and that he does not know anything of Mr. Boyd, and never paid him any rent. Colonel Tottenham, who was summoned, but did not attend the inquiry, has in a letter to Dr. MacCabe described Mr. Boyd's interest as a "Rent-charge," but there is nothing to show that this rent-charge is liable to deduction on account of poor rate, and on the whole, and in the absence of more specific information as to the rent-charge referred to, the Board are of opinion that there is not sufficient evidence to support the claim, and that the two votes claimed ought not to be allowed.

3. Mr. Thomas Boyd.—The circumstances of this case are the same as those of the second objection in the preceding case, and the two votes allowed to Mr. Thomas Boyd should, therefore, be rejected.

4. The Rev. John G. Ball.—The objection is, that the Rev. Dr. Ball, who claims in respect of rents received, pays a head rent which is greater than the valuation, and that the person to whom he pays the rent has been allowed votes in respect of it, and the Board understand from Dr. MacCabe that it is contended that Mr. Ball was not entitled to any proxy votes, inasmuch as he is a middle landlord, and pays to his superior landlord, Mr. McCormick, a rent equal to the valuation; this, however, is not a correct view of the case; a landlord who both receives and pays rent is entitled to vote in respect of the amount of rent received and retained unless that amount is greater than the valuation of the property, in which case his right to vote is limited by the 18th section of the 25 & 26 Vict. c. 83, to the amount of the valuation.

Mr. Ball's claim to vote is made in respect of property which, according to the statement in the claim, is valued at 182*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, but pays no rent. This latter statement (that he pays no rent) is said to be inaccurate, and a claim to vote, which has been lodged by Mr. McCormick, the head landlord, states that he receives rent from the Rev. Mr. Ball, amounting to 189*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, and the accuracy of this statement

ment is borne out by two letters, addressed by Mr. Ball to one of the tenants, in August and September 1881, in which he refers to the fact of his having been called upon to pay half a year's rent (94 l. 11 s. 8 d.) to the head landlord. It may be questionable whether Mr. Ball's claim to vote is not void on account of the omission of one of the particulars which the Act of Parliament requires to be given, namely, the amount of rent payable; but independently of this, it appears from the facts elicited at the Inquiry, that Mr. Ball cannot be entitled to vote in respect of a greater amount than 92 l. 2 s. 1 d., which appears to be the difference between the rent received and the rent paid by him; this would give three votes only, and accordingly two votes should be struck off the number entered against Mr. Ball's name in the above statement.

No evidence appears to have been given to affect Mr. McCormack's claim.

The occupation votes of Captain Walsh and Mr. C. W. Richards were objected, on the ground that they are not in the rate book, and have no property in the electoral division, and do not pay any rates. It appears that the names of these two gentlemen were not inserted in the rate book at the time the rate was signed, but that having claimed to be rated in pursuance of the 110th Section of the Parliamentary Voters' Act, their names were inserted by order of the board of guardians on the 10th of March last. Captain Walsh states that he has been in occupation of the rated premises since October 1880, and he ought to have been inserted in the rate book when the rate was made, and the subsequent insertion of his name in accordance with the Parliamentary Voters' Act appears to have been quite correct. In the case of Mr. Richards, however, it appears that he did not become the tenant of the lands until February last, the rate having been made some months previously, and under these circumstances the Board think that, as he was not in occupation at the time the rate was made, the votes recorded for him should be disallowed.

In regard to the rated occupiers who did not, it is stated, receive voting papers, viz., Ellen Moran, Michael Cooney, George McGrainer, and John Campbell, it appears that Ellen Moran is not rated, the entry in the rate-book being "Representatives of Ellen Moran." The immediate lessor is rated in the case of George McGrainer; and John Campbell is rated jointly with others for a holding valued at 11 l. 5 s., but no voting paper was issued in this case or that of George Cooney. It is to be observed, however, that persons entitled to vote who did not receive voting papers might have obtained them by applying to the returning officer in the manner provided by the 29th Article of the Election Order.

The general result of the above statement in regard to the votes recorded for Mr. Crofton appears to be as follows:—

1. Number of Votes recorded in respect of property and proxy claims in excess of the number that should have been recorded according to the statements in the claims	38
2. Deduct Votes of Mr. J. E. Boyd and Mr. Edward Boyd, their right to vote not being established	4
3. Deduct two of the five votes recorded for the Reverend Mr. Ball	2
4. Deduct occupation votes of Mr. Richards (valuation 81 l.)	3
	47

According to the return made by the returning officer, Mr. Crofton obtained 115 votes, and Mr. Gashkin 75 votes, thus showing a majority of 40 votes for Mr. Crofton; but deducting the above 47 votes, Mr. Crofton did not obtain a majority of valid votes, and was consequently not duly elected.

The Board will therefore issue an order declaring that Mr. Crofton was not duly elected, and providing for a new election.

John Gashkin, Esq.

By Order, &c.
(signed) B. Banks,
Secretary.

— No. 42. —

LETTER from Local Government Board to Mr. Crofton.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
14 August 1882.

Sir,

With reference to previous correspondence relative to the late election of a guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union, and the subsequent inquiry held by Dr. MacCabe as to the validity of your nomination as guardian for that division, the Local Government Board for Ireland transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter* which they have this day addressed to Mr. Gaskin on the subject, from which you will perceive that the Board have arrived at the conclusion that you did not obtain a majority of valid votes, and that you were not duly elected, and that a new election will be ordered.

G. Crofton, Esq.,
Inchinappie, Rathdrum.By Order, &c.
(signed) W. D. Wadsworth,
Assistant Secretary.^{* See No. 41.}

— No. 43. —

LETTER from Local Government Board to the Clerk and Returning Officer.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
14 August 1882.

Sir,

The Local Government Board for Ireland forward to you herewith a copy of a letter* which they have this day addressed to Mr. Gaskin on the subject of the inquiry recently held by Dr. MacCabe into the objections raised to your return of Mr. Crofton as the guardian elected for Killiskey Electoral Division of Rathdrum Union; and the Board at the same time forward to you the several original documents which accompanied Dr. MacCabe's report, a list of which is annexed.

You will see from the enclosed letter that the Board have arrived at the conclusion that Mr. Crofton did not obtain a majority of valid votes, and was not duly elected, and that an order for a new election will be issued.

In making this communication to you the Board cannot avoid expressing their regret that after having acted for so many years as returning officer, you should have exhibited such ignorance of the law governing the election of poor law guardians; and the Board trust that what has occurred will cause you to discharge your duties as returning officer more correctly, and with greater efficiency in future.

The Clerk and Returning Officer,
Rathdrum Union.By Order, &c.
(signed) W. D. Wadsworth,
Assistant Secretary.^{* See No. 41.}

— No. 44. —

LETTER from Local Government Board to Dr. MacCabe.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
14 August 1882.

Sir,

With reference to your report of the 4th instant, relative to the inquiry held by you into the validity of the nomination of Mr. Crofton as a candidate for the office of guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union, at the annual election in the month of March last, and into the validity of the several votes recorded for Mr. Crofton, the Local Government Board for Ireland forward, for your information, a copy of a letter* which they have this day addressed to Mr. Gaskin on the subject, a copy of which has also been communicated

^{* See No. 41.}

municated to Mr. Crofton, to the returning officer, and to Mr. Dodd, as Mr. Gaskin's solicitor.

The original documents which accompanied your report have been returned, as requested.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *W. D. Wadsworth*,
Assistant Secretary.

Dr. MacCabe,
Local Government Inspector, Booterstown.

— No. 45. —

LETTER from Mr. John J. Dodd to the Local Government Board.

Sir,

Wicklow, 7 August 1882.

In reference to the claim of Mr. John Gaskin to be declared the elected guardian for the Killiskey Division of the Rathdrum Union, and to the inquiry held by Doctor MacCabe, the Local Government Board Inspector, on the 1st instant, I beg to call the attention of the Board to the prayer of the memorial addressed by Mr. Gaskin to the Board on the 29th March last (Mr. Manning, the returning officer, having after the inquiry stated to me, as Mr. Gaskin's solicitor, that in consequence of my not having claimed the seat for Mr. Gaskin that the Board would order a new election), in which it is specifically asked that the Board may be pleased to have the matter then complained of inquired into, and Mr. Gaskin declared duly elected; and as I assume that the Board will see from Dr. MacCabe's report that Mr. Gaskin has a majority of legal votes, that he should now be declared duly elected, and not be put to the annoyance and expense of a new election.

I have also on his behalf to ask the Board that he may be declared entitled as against the union or the district to his reasonable expenses incurred in bringing the matter before the Board, and attendant on the inquiry and expenses of witnesses.

I have also on his behalf to ask the Board for a copy of Doctor MacCabe's report, with a view to ulterior proceedings, as some witnesses declined to attend the inquiry, though duly summoned and the service of the summons proved.

The Secretary,
Local Government Board.

I am, &c.
(signed) *John J. Dodd*.

— No. 46. —

LETTER from Local Government Board to Mr. Thomas J. Dodd.

Sir,

Local Government Board, Dublin,
8 August 1882.

I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, relative to the recent inquiry regarding the election of a guardian for Killiskey Electoral Division in Rathdrum Union; and I am to state that your communication will receive attention.

By Order, &c.
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

Thomas J. Dodd, Esq., Solicitor, Wicklow.

— No. 47. —

LETTER from Local Government Board to Mr. John J. Dodd.

Local Government Board, Dublin,

Sir,

14 August 1882.

With reference to your letter of the 7th instant, relative to the late election of a guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of the Rathdrum Union, the Local Government Board for Ireland desire to state that, on consideration of Dr. MacCabe's Report, and on examining the evidence and documents which accompanied it, they have arrived at the conclusion that Mr. Crofton did not obtain a majority of valid votes, and consequently was not duly elected, and that they intend to issue an order for a new election.

In reference to Mr. Gaskin's claim to be declared the elected guardian for Killiskey Electoral Division, the Board do not think that they have any power to make such a declaration.

The 88th Section of the Irish Poor Relief Act provides that every person returned by the returning officer shall be deemed to be legally elected, and the only power given to the Local Government Board in the matter is that contained in the 23rd Section of the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, which enables them, if any question arise as to the right of any person to act as an elective guardian, to inquire into the circumstances of the case, and to issue an order for determining the question: this provision is regarded by the Local Government Board as enabling them to inquire into the right of any person to act, who has been returned by the returning officer under the 88th Section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, but not as enabling them to declare a person to be elected who has not been returned in pursuance of that section.

In reference to your request that Mr. Gaskin may be declared entitled as against the union, or the district, to his reasonable expenses in bringing the matter before the Local Government Board, and attendant on the inquiry, and expenses of witnesses, the Board will be prepared to consider under the 14th Section of the 1 & 2 Vict. c. 56, any claim for expenses which may be made by any witness who was duly summoned, but they do not think that they have any power to order the payment of Mr. Gaskin's expenses.

With regard to your request to be furnished with a copy of Dr. MacCabe's report, the Board have to state that it is contrary to their practice to furnish copies of their inspectors' reports, but they enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter* which they have addressed to Mr. Gaskin, communicating the result of the inquiry, and the grounds of the decision in each case.

At the request of Dr. MacCabe, the Board forward to you two letters* from the Rev. Mr. Bell to Mr. Wilson, which were produced at the inquiry.

^{*See No. 41.}<sup>*See Enclosure 2
in No. 49.</sup>

Be Order, &c.
(signed) W. D. Wedderburn,
Assistant Secretary.

John J. Dodd, Esq., Solicitor,
Wicklow.

— No. 48. —

(No. 24,542—82.)

(Order determining the Question of Right to act as Elective Guardian.)

RATHDRUM UNION.—(Killiskey Division.)

To the Guardians of the Poor of the Rathdrum Union; to the Returning Officer of the said Union; and to all other Persons whom it may concern:

WHEREAS, by a General Order under their Seal, bearing date the Second day of January 1863, the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, did prescribe Rules and Regulations for the conduct of the Annual Election of Guardians of the Poor for the several unions in Ireland:

17.

x 2

And,

And whereas, in pursuance of the directions in the said Order, the returning officer appointed to conduct the proceedings at the election of guardians for the year ending the Twenty-fifth day of March 1883, in the Rathdrum Union, duly made on the Twenty-seventh day of March last, a return of the said election; and in the said return it was stated that George Crofton and John Gaskin having been put in nomination for the office of guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of the said union, the said George Crofton obtained a majority of votes at the said election, over and above the number of votes given for the said John Gaskin, and was elected the guardian for the said electoral division; and whereas a question thereafter arose as to the right of the said George Crofton to act as elective guardian of the union, and we did thereupon inquire into the circumstances of the case, and did find that the said George Crofton did not obtain a majority of good and lawful votes in the said election, over and above the number of good and lawful votes given for the said John Gaskin:

Now therefore, for the purpose of determining the said question, we, the Local Government Board for Ireland, do hereby declare that the said George Crofton was not duly elected guardian for the said Killiskey Electoral Division, and is not entitled in pursuance of the said election to act as elective guardian of the Rathdrum Union, by reason whereof the office of guardian for the said Killiskey Electoral Division is vacant.

Sealed with our Seal, this Seventeenth day of August, in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Eighty-two.

(signed) *Henry Robinson.*
Charles Croker-King.
George Morris.

Seal

— No. 49. —

(No. 24,542—82.)

(Order for an Election to supply a Vacancy in Office of Guardian.)

RATHDRUM UNION.—(Killiskey Division.)

To the Guardians of the Poor of the Rathdrum Union; to the Returning Officer of the said Union; and to all other Persons whom it may concern:

WHEREAS, by a General Order under Seal, bearing date the Second day of January 1863, the Commissioners for Administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, did prescribe rules and regulations for the conduct of the annual elections of guardians of the poor of the several unions in Ireland:

And whereas, the returning officer appointed to conduct the proceedings at the election of guardians for the year ending the Twenty-fifth day of March 1883, in the Rathdrum Union, duly made a return of the persons elected as guardians for the said period:

And whereas, by an Order under Seal, bearing date the Seventeenth day of August instant, we, the Local Government Board for Ireland, have declared the office of guardian for the Killiskey Electoral Division of the said union to be vacant; and we think fit that an election of a guardian for the said electoral division should take place to supply the vacancy in the Board of Guardians:

Now therefore, we, the Local Government Board for Ireland, do hereby order and direct that an election of a guardian shall be held for the said Killiskey Electoral Division, in the manner and form prescribed by the said General Order of the Second day of January 1863, and with the qualification prescribed for the office of guardian in an Order of the Poor Law Commissioners, bearing date the Twenty-seventh day of January 1844.

And

And we do hereby farther order and direct that the following proceedings necessary for the completion of the said election shall be taken on the following days respectively, that is to say:—

The notice of election shall be issued on the - - - 24th August 1882.

The last day for receiving nomination papers shall be the 29th " "

but no nomination shall be received after the hour of five o'clock in the afternoon of that day.

The list of persons nominated shall be forwarded to the

Commissioners on the - - - 31st " "

The first day for issuing voting papers shall be the - - 6th September "

The first day for collecting voting papers shall be the - - 8th "

The day for making the return of the election shall be the 12th "

or any day (not being Sunday), after the said Twelfth day of September, not later than the Nineteenth day of September next; but if no more than one candidate for the said electoral division be nominated, the returning officer may make the return of the election on any day after the day for forwarding the list, and before the Twelfth day of September aforesaid; or if more than one candidate for the said electoral division be named in the list, and by reason of resignation or otherwise, the number be afterwards reduced to one, the return may be made on any day after the day on which the number shall have been so reduced as aforesaid, and before the said Twelfth day of September.

Provided, that the returning officer shall issue the notice of election according to the form hereunto annexed. And such notice shall be posted in the usual places for posting such notices in the said electoral division, and a copy thereof shall be sent by post to each of the justices resident in the said electoral division, or qualified to be *ex officio* guardians in respect of property situate therein.

Provided also, that the expenses necessarily attending the said election, including the cost of forms required to be provided for the same, shall be charged to the said electoral division.

And we do further order and declare, that in all other respects the directions contained in the said General Order of the Second day of January 1863, shall be complied with by all persons concerned.

Sealed with our Seal, this Eighteenth day of August, in the year of Our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Eighty-two.

(signed) *Henry Robinson.*
Charles Croker-King.

Seal.

NOTICE.

UNION.

ELECTION of a Guardian of the Poor to supply a Vacancy in the Board of Guardians of the above Union for the Year ending 25th of March 1883.

I, the undersigned returning officer of the union, do hereby give notice that—

1. An election of a guardian of the poor is to be held for the Electors Division in the said union.

2. Any male person of full age, not expressly disqualified by law, who is entitled, under the provisions of the Acts for the Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland, to vote at elections of guardians in the said union, and who shall have been liable under the last-mentioned rate, to pay or contribute rate in respect of property of the net annual value of not less than

 pounds in his occupation, or for which he is rated as owner or immediate lessor, within the said union, or who is entitled to vote in respect of net rent payable to his receipt in the said union, of that amount, or who is entitled to vote in respect of tithe rent-charge payable to his receipt from property within the union, of that amount, will be eligible as a guardian for the electoral division above named. But no person being in body orders, or being a regular minister of any religious denomination, is eligible as a guardian; and no person who has been convicted of felony, fraud, or perjury; and no person

person who has been adjudged to be liable to any forfeiture for having provided, furnished, or supplied for his own profit any materials, goods, or provisions for the use of any workhouse, or for having been concerned in furnishing or applying the same, or in any contract relating thereto, is capable of being elected or appointed, or of acting as a guardian.

3. No occupier rated to the poor rate will be entitled to vote in that capacity unless he shall have paid all poor-rates previously made and assessed upon him, except such as shall have been made or become due within six calendar months immediately preceding such voting; and no owner or immediate lessor who is rated under the provisions of the Act 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, ss 1 and 4, or of the Act 12 & 13 Vict. c. 91, sect. 63, or of the Act 12 & 13 Vict. c. 104, sect. 10, will be entitled to vote in respect of the property for which he is so rated, unless he shall have paid all the rates made and assessed upon him in respect of such property, except such as shall have been made or become due within six calendar months immediately preceding such voting.

4. No ratepayer will be entitled to vote in respect of any property not in his actual occupation, or in respect of any interest equivalent to profit rent arising out of property occupied by him, unless he shall, one calendar month at the least previous to the first day hereinafter named for collecting votes, have delivered to the board of guardians of the union, or to the person acting for the time being as returning officer, a statement in writing of his name and address, and the description and local situation of the property in respect of which he claims to vote, specifying in cities, towns, and their suburbs, having streets and other roadways, the name of the street or roadway, and the number of the house or tenement, if any, and the parish in which the property is situate, and in other places the barony, parish, and townland, so that the property may be ascertained and identified with reasonable certainty, together with the nature of the interest of the ratepayer therein, and its net annual value over and above all rents payable by him, and the amount of rent payable to him, and the names of the tenants or occupiers by whom poor-rates have been deducted from such rent, and such claim to vote must be executed in the presence of a justice of the peace.

5. Any ratepayer in respect of property not in his actual occupation, may, by writing under his hand, appoint any person to vote as his proxy; but such proxy must, one calendar month previous to the day on which he shall claim to vote, have given to the board of guardians or the returning officer, a statement in writing of his own name and address, and also the name and address of the ratepayer appointing him such proxy, and the description and local situation of the property in respect of which he claims to vote as proxy, specifying in cities, towns, and their suburbs, having streets and other roadways, the name of the street or roadway, and the number of the house or tenement, if any, and the parish in which the property is situate, and in other places the barony, parish, and townland, so that the property may be ascertained and identified with reasonable certainty, together with the nature of the interest of the ratepayer therein, and its net annual value, over and above all rents payable by him, and the amount of rent payable to him, and the names of the tenants or occupiers by whom poor-rates have been deducted from such rent. The proxy must also give an original or attested copy of the writing appointing him such proxy, and the claim to vote must be executed in the presence of a justice of the peace. No person can vote as proxy for more than 20 owners of property in any one electoral division, unless he be a steward, bailiff, land agent, or collector of rents for the owners of property for whom he may be appointed to vote.

6. Nominations of a guardian for the electoral division above-named, must be made by ratepayers entitled to vote in the division according to the form prescribed by the Poor-Law Commissioners, printed copies of which form may be had on application to me; and such nomination will be received by me at _____ and will be receivable on and after the date of this notice, up to the hour of 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the day of _____; but no nomination will be valid if received after that time or before the issue of this notice, or if the nominee shall not have paid all the poor-rates previously made and assessed on him, except such as shall have been made or become due within the six calendar months immediately preceding the nomination.

7. If any person put in nomination for the office of guardian in the electoral division above named shall tender to the returning officer his refusal, in writing, to serve such office, the election of such person is to be no further proceeded with for such division, and such writing will be received by me at the place above named.

8. If more than one guardian be duly nominated for the electoral division above named, I shall cause voting papers to be delivered on the _____ day of _____ and if necessary on the following day, to the address in the division of each ratepayer and proxy qualified to vote, which voting papers will contain full instructions as to the mode of voting; and on the _____ day of _____ and if necessary on the following day, I shall cause such voting papers to be collected.

9. On the _____ day of _____ and following days, I shall attend in the board room of the said union, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon; and I shall thereafter proceed to ascertain the number of votes given for each candidate.

10. Every

10. Every person entitled to vote, who shall not have received a voting paper, on either of the days appointed for delivering the same, may, on application in person to the returning officer, on the days appointed for the collection of the voting papers, receive a voting paper, and fill up the same in the presence of the returning officer, and then and there deliver the same to him. And if in any case a voting paper duly issued shall not have been collected on the proper days through the default of any of the persons employed by the returning officer for the collection of voting papers, the voter may in person deliver the paper to the returning officer on or before the _____ day of _____

11. If any person knowingly and fraudulently, and with the intent of giving a greater number of votes than he is by law entitled to give, tender or forward to the returning officer a false statement of the grounds on which he claims to vote or to give additional votes; or forge, falsify, or knowingly or fraudulently alter after signature, any paper containing a statement of claim to vote, proxy, nomination, or vote for the election of guardians, or refusal to serve the office of guardian: or conspire to forge, falsify, or so alter any such paper; or knowingly tender or forward to the proper officer any such paper forged, falsified, or so altered as aforesaid, or wilfully suppress, carry off, destroy or deface any statement of claim to vote, proxy, or nomination of a candidate for the office of guardian, after the same has been duly signed; or in like manner suppress, carry off, destroy, or deface any voting paper after the same has been issued by the returning officer; the person so offending is liable to a penalty of 10 £, recoverable by distress and sale of the offender's goods, or to imprisonment for three months, on complaint and conviction before two justices of the peace.

(Name of Returning Officer) _____

18

Returning Officer for the

Union.

RECEIVED IN LIBRARY.

COPY of Correspondence and the Minutes of
the Poor Law Inspector who held the Inquiry
into the Election of a Poor Law Committee for
Kingswear Electoral District of Dartmouth
Towns, county Devon.

(Mr. William Corlett)

Received by the House of Commons, in the Printed
Office, 12 February 1872.

[Price 5 d.]

17.

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